



STEP II, 2017, Q12 EC

The statistics questions were attempted by only a small fraction of the cohort, with question 12 the least popular question on the paper, receiving fewer than 200 attempts, of which only about a third made any meaningful progress. Although the question had a small wording ambiguity this did not seem to have bothered any but a very few candidates. It was disappointing that even the fairly standard analysis in part (i) proved difficult for most candidates, with several claiming that the mean and the variance being equal was a sufficient condition for $X + Y$ to follow a Poisson distribution.



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